

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: REINFORCED NODAL STRUCTURE, REINFORCEMENT WITH A
CORE OF EXPANSIBLE MATERIAL AND METHOD OF MOLDING AN
ARTICLE

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action of September 5, 2003, wherein restriction has been required, Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 17-23 and 32), drawn to a method of molding a reinforced nodal structure, with traverse, for prosecution in the above-identified application.

Applicants respectfully note the European Patent Office acting as both the International Searching Authority and the International Preliminary Examining Authority determined that Groups I and II (the method and the machine) together formed a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each

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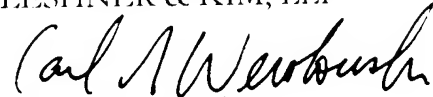
Docket No. SGU-0050

of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: October 3, 2003

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